



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Population: Question on Educational Attainment (P-11)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- The Department of Justice uses these data for enforcement work under the Voting Rights Act and to determine disparities in voter participation.
- The Department of Education uses these data for distribution of funds to historically Black colleges and universities.
- The Department of Labor uses these data to analyze labor market information as it relates to women and for the evaluation of legislation and programs affecting women.
- Businesses use these data to find sites with a labor force with certain education characteristics.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- Voting Rights Act
- Telecommunications Act of 1996
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

11 What is the highest degree or level of school this person has **COMPLETED**? Mark (X) *ONE* box. If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.

☐ No schooling completed

☐ Nursery school to 4th grade

☐ 5th grade or 6th grade

☐ 7th grade or 8th grade

☐ 9th grade

☐ 10th grade

☐ 11th grade

☐ 12th grade – **NO DIPLOMA**

☐ **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE** – high school DIPLOMA or the equivalent (for example: GED)

☐ Some college credit, but less than 1 year

☐ 1 or more years of college, no degree

☐ Associate degree (for example: AA, AS)

☐ Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, AB, BS)

☐ Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)

☐ Professional degree (for example: MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)

☐ Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)

<www.census.gov/acs/www>



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HISTORY OF THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT QUESTION

- The question on educational attainment has been asked since 1940.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The question about educational attainment establishes highest grade completed in school or the highest degree received. Educational attainment is asked as a separate concept from school enrollment to preserve the accuracy of the data.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

<cmo.acs@census.gov>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions